

7 Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar	7 Mr. K. Krishna Pisharodi.
8 „ P. Krishna Menon	8 „ P. Nilakanta Menon.
9 „ P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan	9 Mrs. G. Pavitran.
10 „ A. K. Kunhu Moideen	10 Dr. D. Raghavendra Rao.
11 „ C. A. Kunjuni Raja	11 Mr. I. Raman Menon.
12 „ C. V. Kuriyan	12 Rama Varmha Tampuran.
13 „ C. J. Mathew	13 Mr. K. Ramunni Menon.
14 „ K. Mohamed Seethi	14 Dr. E. A. Veigas.
15 „ T. K. Nayar.	
16 Dr. A. R. Menon.	
17 Mr. A. B. Salem.	
18 „ Thomas Manjuran.	

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—18 for, 14 against.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—No neutrals also. That may also be noted.

13. Land Mortgage Banks.

The following resolution was not moved and so it was considered withdrawn.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—*This Council recommends to the Government to start a well organised system of Land Mortgage Banks.*

14. New Moon Days.

Deputy President.—Resolution No. 14.

Mr. K. J. Antony being absent the following resolution tabled by him was considered withdrawn.

“This Council recommends to the Government that the New Moon days instead of as now being made half-holidays be made full holidays or no holidays at all in which latter case making the Thulam, Makaram and Karkadagam New Moon days and the New Moon days succeeding Sivarathri complete holidays.”

15. Thanikkudam Scheme.

Deputy President.—Resolution 15.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—Sir, I beg to move, “that in view of the great sufferings and losses caused to kole cultivators by successive drought this Council recommends to the Government to complete investigation with regard to the Thanikkudam scheme of irrigation as early as possible and requests that the work be proceeded within the course of the next financial year to irrigate kole lands.”

Sir, this thorny problem has been discussed here off and on and no definite step has been taken by the Government. Even though recommendations have been submitted to give adequate relief to the ryots, none of the recommendations, excepting one, has been taken into effect and I request the Government that at least next year some schemes of irrigation may be taken up to irrigate kole lands. I have more than once stated in this Council that the cultivators are willing to pay whatever charges of irrigation that may be met by the Government. Their only request is that they should be provided with adequate water so that their harvest may be properly reaped. In respect

of a question put, I was answered that there was a drought only in 1093. I would most respectfully submit that it is a statement not supported by facts. There were droughts even after 1093 on more than three or four occasions which were not partial to one great extent of cultivable land. Now, the only defect—even though in the Kole Committee Report several defects have been pointed out—the main defect is want of water. Now I shall be brief in dealing with the drawbacks of the kole cultivation which have been summarised thus:—

1. Failure of crops on account of droughts.
2. Failure of crops by flood due to the bursting of the south-west monsoon before the crops are harvested.
3. Difficulty to get at reasonable prices bamboos and other materials necessary for the successful carrying out of kole cultivation.

I take the item of drought. This is due to the following two main causes: (1) scarcity of water for irrigating the crops during the summer months and (2) late cultivation. Scarcity of water for irrigating the crops is due to the following causes:

1. The cultivation of all kole lands and the consequent draining out into the sea of the whole water except a very small quantity that is retained in the poramboke chals without making any provision for the supply of water for irrigation purposes.
2. The cultivation of these kole lands in big Padavus and the consequent blocking up of the major portion of the poramboke chals.
3. The shallow nature of the existing poramboke chals which prevents the retention of any appreciable quantity of water even in the available poramboke chals for irrigation purposes.
4. Want of occasional rains during the summer months.

Now the main feature in respect of the defect in kole cultivation is scarcity of water. That has been accounted for by 4 reasons. The summary of the recommendations are these:—The first and foremost of the recommendations is in favour of the diversion of the Chalakkudi river for the purpose of irrigating the kole lands. (2) If the above scheme is not found possible, there is the investigation of storing water in the kole lands at the time of cultivation in the Mundakan and Viruppu lands. Then the 3rd, the improvement of the canal system by deepening in places where such improvements are found necessary. And (4), the lending of money by the Government. In respect of the recommendations passed by the Committee, excepting the lowering of the Enamakal dam nothing has yet been done. They have not deepened the canal nor have they supplied water to irrigate these kole lands. One or two attempts have been made by

Government to introduce a system of storing water. Now, after all, the storage made by Government is comparatively little and does not sufficiently meet the needs of agriculturists. After a half-hearted trial for one or two years, they dropped the system, and on account of the dropping of that system, we have been severely affected by droughts. Even last year, there was a partial drought and I approached the then Diwan to make some remission of taxes or at least to give some relief. Then he promised and nothing was done. The very question of the Thanikkudam scheme was raised in this Council during the last Budget Session, and the Member for Engineering said that it was a hopeful and promising one, and that he would take the scheme up next year and finish it in the course of the next three financial years. My submission is that we, who are the owners of 17,000 acres of cultivable area and for which every year we have been spending, according to the accounts submitted by the Government, nearly 6 lakhs and odd rupees, have to pay more than Rs. 15,000 as land tax. We have not been given sufficient water to irrigate these lands. Now, the question has been repeatedly raised not only in this Council but also by petitions, deputations and memorials and no step has yet been taken. I attack the absolutely callous indifference of the Government in not supplying the necessary water. My request is that the Engineering Department be pleased to take up the Thanikkudam scheme which is said to be a hopeful and promising one and see that the problem of scarcity of water is relieved.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I second it.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I support it.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The question of improving kole cultivation has been engaging the attention of the Government for a number of years and they had appointed a Committee in 1093 to go into the whole question and they have submitted a report, the main points of which were read before this House by the Hon'ble Member. These questions have been under consideration for some time and when opportunity came, the first thing that the Government did was the construction of the new Enamakkal weir. After the construction of that weir it is generally known to the people of the locality that the flood level of the Enamakkal lake was reduced to a considerable extent. While there used to be a flood level of 9 to 10 feet of water during high flood, it has now been reduced to 4 to 5 feet with the result that the new system of cultivation has been gaining ground in those lands. This is locally known as the Kuttadan cultivation. As you all know, farmers are slow to new methods of cultivation and it is necessary to give them a few more years to understand perfectly the advantages of this method.

of cultivation. Ordinary kole or puncha cultivation requires a great deal of expenditure in the matter of putting up bunds and bailing water. Kuttadan is cultivated during the months of Meenam and Makaram when there is no necessity for putting up bunds or bailing water. They simply have to sow the seeds and later to reap the harvest. And the condition of kuttadan cultivation was so very good that last year the crops yielded a splendid harvest. I know as a matter of fact that people are going for more kuttadan cultivation this year. With the advent of kuttadan cultivation a good portion of the kole lands can be utilised for storing water with the result that you will find reduced chances of dearth of water for puncha cultivation, because the water stored in the kuttadan lands could be utilised for irrigating kole lands proper. So the question of drought seems to have been solved to a very great extent at present. Now if you take the condition of this year, there have been no rains in the kole lands or in any of the connected places during the months of Kumbham and Meenam; but still there is plenty of water in the kole lands. It is partly due to the increased extent of kuttadan cultivation and also due to the fact that a certain amount of lands are kept fallow this year. But still even though the question of drought is solved, there remains the question of bunds, which are costly. That can be solved only, I think, by external methods of irrigation.

When we come to the question of such irrigation, the question naturally arises as to which is the best method by which that irrigation should be effected. There are now two methods projected. The first of them and possibly the best is the diversion of the Chalakkudi river and if it is not feasible, the Thanikkudam scheme. I think, you will agree with me in thinking, that the question of the Thanikkudam scheme should be taken up only in case it is found impossible to divert the Chalakkudi river. From an engineering point of view it is not impossible, but the question of the riparian rights, which was the deciding factor hitherto in deciding whether the Chalakkudi scheme could be taken up or not, has not yet been decided. Now we are under correspondence with the Travancore Government to settle these questions and we hope that a definite decision would be arrived at in the near future. So I would recommend that the question of the Thanikkudam scheme for purposes of kole cultivation may be taken up only after the Chalakkudi scheme has been decided one way or the other. If it is decided that Chalakkudi cannot go on because of difficulties of settling the riparian rights we may go ahead and start the Thanikkudam scheme. If however it is possible to divert the Chalakkudi river then I am sure that that scheme will

be much better and more dependable than the Thanikkudam scheme for purposes of kole irrigation, etc. And further when the Poringalkuttu dam is constructed it will be possible to divert more water. The Chalakkudi river during the dry season runs down to about 49 to 50 cusecs of water but when the Poringalkuttu dam is constructed it will increase to 100 cusecs. By having the dam for the Hydro-Electric scheme, therefore, we shall also be indirectly using it for irrigation purposes lower down. Therefore I again propose that the question of the Thanikkudam scheme may be taken up only after the diversion of the Chalakkudi river has been decided one way or the other.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—On a point of information, may I know whether the Thanikkudam scheme is a promising one for irrigating kole lands?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I have already reported that it is a feasible one for the irrigation of kole lands. But the Chalakkudi scheme is a much better one.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—I have to submit that the old stock argument that has been raised in this Council before by the Government has been raised this time also. Whenever we speak of the scarcity of water for kole cultivation, then comes the answer of 'kuttadan'. Now, I wish, at least at this time, to clear that illusion on the side of the Government. Now, so far as kuttadan cultivation is concerned, it is not so popular or hopeful among the ryots. I know practically one instance in which my last predecessor cultivated 2,000 acres of land by kuttadan and after all he got 4,000 paras of paddy. What is the result?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—What is the case in this year? Is there not enough water?

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—I do say that there is enough water this year and it is because many lands are allowed to lie fallow because the ryots were not able to meet the expenses of irrigation. They naturally thought that, if after such big expenditure, the yield is only average, and with the low price for paddy it will go much against them. They naturally allowed their lands to lie fallow and courted less danger.

A common feature in kole cultivation is the scarcity of water and there is drought at least in alternate years. It is for a remedy to this that we have been agitating for the last 13 years. For the last 13 years we have been asking for the execution of either the Chalakkudi diversion scheme or the Thanikkudam scheme. But though these two schemes are in hand, nothing has yet been done. The Government say that the Thanikkudam scheme is a feasible one and we are prepared to give an irrigation cess at a reasonable rate of interest if it is taken up and

constructed. Now this delay causes much financial havoc among the ryots. In the face of the submission made by the Member for Engineering, my request is that the Chalakkudi diversion scheme may at once be investigated. There was an obstacle from the Government of Travancore at one time, that they also require water, and at that time they were in correspondence with our Government. Now, in respect of the Chalakkudi diversion, the Travancore Government has made one step above us. It is their need that is more pressing than our need. Now, the Travancore Government are pressing for water, so also our Government. If these two Governments fight with each other and which fight has continued for the last 12 or 13 years, I do not think that they will be able to arrive at a settlement. Even now no definite settlement has been made out. It appears that the negotiation is still pending and since that scheme is likely to be adjourned for a considerable period of time, it would be better on the part of the Government to proceed to the Thanikudam scheme so that our immediate and urgent necessity for water may be sufficiently met. May I know whether the Travancore Government has given the permit to draw water from the Chalakkudi river?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—There has been a general agreement on the point. The question now arises as to how much water we are entitled to. For that purpose it is necessary to put up a gauging stage, and we have now addressed the Travancore Government a few days ago, to co-operate with us in constructing a common gauge and to depute their officers to read that gauge. Without these preliminaries it is impossible to work a scheme of this nature.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Whereabout will be that gauge?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—At Adarappalli. It is necessary for us to go into these questions methodically, and definitely fix what the normal flow of the river is and afterwards we shall have to ask them for more water. On account of the storage we shall be affecting by means of the dam for hydr-electric purpose. My point is this. Since the Chalakkudi diversion is a much more promising one than the Thanikudam scheme, that should be explored first before we go into the expenditure of 10 or 11 lakhs for the Thanikudam scheme. The Thanikudam scheme will only benefit the kole lands while the Chalakkudi diversion will benefit a large area of the mundakan and viruppu and also the kole lands. And it is only a matter of one or two years before we shall be able to know where we are exactly. If the Travancore Government consents to put up that gauge on the river to which I have just now alluded to, it should not be too long to come to a decision on this matter. On that ground, I

request the House just to wait till we come to a definite decision regarding the Chalakkudi diversion.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—May I have some idea about the comparative yield of the kuttadan cultivation?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Last season, kuttadan cultivation yielded 10 to 15 fold, while the yield of the kole was on an average 10 or 12 fold.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—So, the average in the yield in kole cultivation is less than that in kuttadan cultivation.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—May I know whether the Travancore Government is trying to divert the Chalakkudi river water?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—They are trying to divert water to Angamali.

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—In view of the submission made by the Hon'ble Member I withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was, with leave, withdrawn.

16. Retirement of Government Servants after the age of 55.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Sir, I move the following resolution.

This Council recommends to the Government to observe strictly the rule which requires that all the Government servants should retire after the age of 55.

Deputy President.—It is being observed now.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—It is being observed, after the advent of the present Diwan. But we do not know whether he is going to pursue that policy hereafter. I do not think any speech is necessary on the point. I formally move this resolution.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I second the resolution. There is an identical resolution standing in my name, resolution No. 26. "This Council recommends that the rule that an officer should retire on attaining his 55th year from the Government service may be strictly enforced in future."

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I may be permitted to substitute for the words "after the age of 55", the words "on attaining the age of 55".

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—In the year 1103 the present Member for Trichur moved a resolution which was rather couched in a very unhappy language. I shall read that resolution: "This Council recommends that the rule that an officer should retire on attaining his 55th year be deleted from the Service rules". From his speech it will be found that he was for retaining all officers for ever. I moved an amendment then, that only those who then attained the age of 55 need be retained for ever for their capacity was tested by the Government, who found them increasing in strength with advancing age and the rule may be retained to